



The International Fancy Guppy Association



Dedicated to Promoting The Fancy Guppy Hobby

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Frank Orteca Interview

By Jim Gourlie

Q. Frank, you have been in the hobby for over 20 some years, what are the lines of guppies that you now concentrate your breeding on?

A. I concentrate on solid and variegated snakeskins.

Q. What size tanks do you use?

A. I use 5, 10 and 15 gallons. I use the 5 gallons for the fry up to one month and for my breeders. My breeders generally consist of 2 males and 3 females. The 10 gallons are for 1 month to 3 month old fish. Fifteen gallons are reserved for males 3 months old to show size.

Q. At what age do you sex your fish?

A. To pick virgin females at age 4 to 6 weeks old, I may keep a half dozen or so females. The rest stay with the males until they go into the 15 gallon tanks. I usually keep 10 males in the 15 gallon tanks along with 2 females.

Q. What kind of food do you feed?

A. Live baby brine shrimp for all fish. Frozen adult brine starting at age 6 weeks (small portions), Shubel Master Blend dry food and Luis Tamerlie dry food.

Q. What is your feeding schedule?

A. Fifteen minutes after the lights go on in the morning, all the fish are fed a touch of the Tamerlie dry food. About 45 minutes later, adult brine shrimp is fed. Then at lunch I feed Shubel Master Blend in every tank. When I come home from work, I then give the fish Shubel/Tamerlie food. At night, usually around 9 PM, I feed baby brine shrimp.

Q. How often do you change your water and what is the amount of the water change?

A. Under ideal situations, I make a 25% water change once a week, or if more than a week has passed, I make a 35% water change.

Q. Do you age your water or some how condition it?

A. No. I use tap water from my city water supply, temperature controlled. I fill the top rack of tanks first (I have 2 racks, a top and a bottom). Then I put dechlorination in those tanks right away. Then I work on the bottom rack.

Q. What kind of filters do you use?

A. Currently I am using inside box filters. I am thinking about going to the cube/slate bottom sponge filters in at least my 15 gallon tanks.

Q. Do you paint the bottom of your tanks black to cut down on fish nervousness?

A. Some are painted black, some are not. But soon all will be painted black.

Q. What type of air pump system do you use?

A. I use Whisper Diaphragms (700 to 1000). I use PVC piping with valves to each tank. Each rack has its own pump.

Q. How do you heat your fish room?

A. With 2 four foot 220 electric base board heaters.

Q. Do you use a vent fan in your fish room?

A. No, but I am considering using an air exchanger.

Q. What qualities do you look for in your breeders?

A. First, I look for a big thick body on the male. Then a wide caudal angle. Next I look for the type of color desired in the caudal. After this, I choose the best male dorsal/ caudal match. This is done at approximately 3 months or so of age.

Q. At what age do you set up your breeders?

A. The ages range from 3 1/2 months to 5 months.

Q. At what age do you start showing your fish?

A. Most of my fish are shown at 6 to 9 months of age or older. I did show a variegated snakeskin (his name was "Gus") during 3 separate show seasons! He lived in his very own 15 gallon tank, placed on the bottom rack where the water was a shade cooler. He lived a bit over 3 years. What a fish! I even had a funeral for him when he died!



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